

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, D.C. #125
ALINA ZERANSKI

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THE HAPPINESS OF BEING INVOLVED
(INSERTS AVAILABLE IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR: DATELINE: WASHINGTON, D.C. -- PICTURES IN SOUND OF PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS HERE IN THE CAPITAL OF THE UNITED STATES -- BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE VOICE OF AMERICA EACH WEEK AT THIS TIME. TODAY, A REPORT PREPARED BY ALINA ZERANSKI ON A VISIT WITH A GROUP OF YOUNG PEOPLE, WHO FEEL THAT LEARNING THROUGH EXPERIENCE AND SERVING OTHERS IS AS IMPORTANT AS LEARNING FROM BOOKS.

NARR: THE CAMPUS OF GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY IN WASHINGTON, D.C. IS FULL OF SURPRISES. IT IS A PRESTIGIOUS SCHOOL WITH TRADITION AND ITS 8,5000 STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO MEET HIGH ACADEMIC STANDARDS. BUT IN THE BASEMENT OF THE MAJESTIC NEO-GOTHIC UNIVERSITY CENTER, YOU CAN FIND A REGULAR GROCERY STORE. IT WAS FOUNDED AND IT IS OPERATED TOTALLY BY STUDENTS. DO YOU WANT SOME ICE CREAM? A LOAF OF BREAD? OR LATEST HIT RECORDS? IT IS ALL THERE AND MUCH MORE AT PRICES CONSIDERABLY LOWER THAN YOU COULD FIND ELSEWHERE. THIS STORE IS CALLED VITAL VITTLES AND IT'S ONE OF SEVERAL ENTERPRISES OF A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION WHERE ABOUT 150 STUDENTS HAVE PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE INVOLVED IN SOMETHING CONSTRUCTIVE. ROBERT GAGE, A SENIOR AT THE SCHOOL OF FOREIGN SERVICE, IS PRESIDENT OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT AND OF THIS CORPORATION.

TAPE: CUT ONE -- GAGE

"IN THE LATE SIXTIES WHEN STUDENTS WERE MUCH MORE RADICAL, THEY WANTED TO SUE THE UNIVERSITY, THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT DID. THEY COULDN'T SUE THE UNIVERSITY THEN BECAUSE STUDENT GOVERNMENT IS A STUDENTS' ACTIVITY, AND THEREFORE PART OF THE UNIVERSITY. THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN SUING THEMSELVES. SO, THEY FORMED A CORPORATION, (WITH) A SEPARATE LEGAL BASE FROM WHICH TO PRESS SUIT AGAINST THE UNIVERSITY. WELL, THEY NEVER DID PRESS THE SUIT, BUT TWO OR THREE YEARS DOWN THE ROAD, A CANDIDATE WHO WAS RUNNING FOR PRESIDENCY OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT SAID -- 'WHAT THE HECK, I CAN PROVIDE SERVICES FROM THAT CORPORATE BASE AND GET MYSELF ELECTED!' -- SO, HE HAD A VERY SELF-CENTERED MOTIVE FOR THE CORPORATION TO BEGIN WITH. HE WAS ELECTED, AND HE BEGAN PROVIDING SERVICES. FROM THERE IT HAS DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPED."

NARR: THE CORPORATION GROSSES ABOUT THREE QUARTERS OF A MILLION DOLLARS YEARLY. BUT ITS IMPORTANCE CANNOT BE JUDGED BY MONETARY FLOW. IT PROVIDES SOMETHING THAT OTHERWISE WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE. FOR INSTANCE DURING CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS, FOR A COUPLE OF DOLLARS, STUDENTS GOT STORAGE SERVICE FOR ITEMS SUCH AS STEROES, CALCULATORS, AND RADIOS. THIS YEAR, THIS SERVICE WAS EXTENDED OVER SUMMER VACATION, WHEN OVER A HUNDRED STUDENTS STORED WHOLE TRUNKS OF BOOKS AND HEAVY CLOTHING. AGAIN, SPEAKING OF THE CORPORATION, IS ROBERT GAGE.

TAPE: CUT TWO -- GAGE

"IT HAS TWO FULL PURPOSES. THE FIRST IS TO PROVIDE THE LOWEST POSSIBLE COST SERVICES FOR STUDENTS, ANYTHING FROM GROCERIES TO RECORDS, A FURNITURE CO-OP, STORAGE SERVICE. THE SECOND IS AN EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE TO GIVE AS MANY STUDENTS AS POSSIBLE A REAL LIFE EXPERIENCE IN RUNNING A CORPORATION."

NARR: OPERATING A CORPORATION OF THIS SIZE WILL HELP BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION MAJORS TO FIND GOOD JOBS AFTER GRADUATION. DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS, TWENTY STUDENTS EVEN RECEIVED ACADEMIC CREDITS FOR THIS EXPERIENCE. BUT HOW USEFUL CAN SUCH EXPERIENCE BE FOR TO THE FUTURE OF A LANGUAGE MAJOR?

NARR: STUDENTS BELIEVE THAT OUTSIDE OF GETTING A SMALL INCOME,
(CONT'D) THEY ALSO LEARN TO WORK WITH PEOPLE AND THEY HAVE A REWARDING
FEELING OF BELONGING TO A COMMUNITY WITH A SPECIFIC GOAL.
EVEN TO A FUTURE BIOLOGIST RUNNING HOT DOG, POP AND SNACK
STANDS DURING SCHOOL BALL GAMES IS A USEFUL EXPERIENCE. IT
IS A POSITION OF GREAT RESPONSIBILITY. IT IS AN INDEPENDENT
OPERATION WITHOUT ANY UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATOR TO OVERSEE
OR HELP. WHOEVER WAS IN CHARGE, FOR INSTANCE, OF PROVIDING
2,000 VISITORS AT A SPECIAL EVENT WITH MACARONI AND CHEESE
CERTAINLY HAD TO SHOW EXECUTIVE ABILITIES.

WILLIAM MCCOY, A 21-YEAR-OLD SENIOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION,
IS CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER OF THE CORPORATION.

TAPE: CUT THREE -- MCCOY

"AN ADDITIONAL SERVICE WHICH THE CORPORATION PROVIDES AND
ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR ON CAMPUS IS WHAT WE CALL THE
TRAVEL SERVICE, WHICH IS BASICALLY AN ON-CAMPUS AGENT FOR
A SPECIFIC TRAVEL AGENCY HERE IN WASHINGTON. IT IS STUDENT
RUN, AFFILIATED WITH THE CORPORATION, AND PROVIDES VERY LOW
COST TRANSPORTATION WHICH CATER TO THE STUDENTS NEEDS SUCH
AS AT VACATION TIME. ON THANKSGIVING WE'LL HAVE BUSES AND
CHARTERED PLANES GOING TO THE MAJOR CITIES IN THE EAST. AT
CHRISTMAS TIME, WE'LL HAVE THE SAME THING AND IN ADDITION
WE HAVE, FOR EXAMPLE, A FLIGHT TO EUROPE, OR WE'LL HAVE A
CHARTERED FLIGHT TO THE WEST COAST FOR STUDENTS WHO LIVE ON
THE WEST COAST AND ONLY GO HOME ONCE A YEAR. AND IT WILL
BE WELL BELOW ANY OTHER AVAILABLE TRANSPORTATION. THEN IN
THE SPRING AT VACATION TIME, THE TRAVEL SERVICE PROVIDES
VARIOUS VACATION TRAVEL."

NARR: THE TRAVEL SERVICE OPERATION BRINGS IN A HUNDRED THOUSAND
DOLLARS ANNUALLY. WHILE STUDENTS PRIZE THE EDUCATIONAL
VALUE OF WORKING FOR THE CORPORATION, THEY REALIZE THAT
THEIR MONETARY COMPENSATION WILL BE SMALL. IN THIS UNIQUE
CORPORATION, THE MORE INTERESTING JOB, THE LESSER THE PAY.

NARR: THE MONOTONY OF SITTING AT THE CASHIER'S DESK IS REWARDED
(CONT'D) BY A BETTER CHECK.

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- MCCOY

"WE HAVE A USED FURNITURE CO-OP, WHICH IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT MANY GEORGETOWN STUDENTS ARE FORCED TO LIVE OFF CAMPUS THEY HAVE TO PROVIDE THEMSELVES USED FURNITURE WHEN THEY COME DOWN HERE IN THE FALL. SO, WHAT WE DO IN THE SPRING EACH YEAR, WE PURCHASE USED FURNITURE FROM THOSE STUDENTS WHO ARE GRADUATING OR LEAVING THE AREA AND WANT TO GET RID OF THEIR FURNITURE FOR A REASONABLE PRICE. WE STORE THAT FURNITURE OVER THE SUMMER, AND THEN IN SEPTEMBER WHEN SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS, WE OPEN UP A ROOM, A DISPLAY ROOM, AND WE SELL THAT FURNITURE BACK TO THE INCOMING STUDENTS. AND WE DO THAT ON BASICALLY A BREAK-EVEN BASIS."

NARR: THE ONLY PART OF THE OPERATION USING VOLUNTEER WORKERS IS IN SUPPORT OF THE CANCER RESEARCH CENTER. TENNIS TOURNAMENTS ARE ORGANIZED YEARLY BRINGING IN ABOUT 10,000 DOLLARS FOR A DONATION. THE CORPORATION HAS HAD A PHENOMENAL GROWTH IN THE PAST TWO YEARS. YOUNG PEOPLE LIKE TO WORK IN HELPING THEIR FELLOW STUDENTS AND THEY LIKE THE CHALLENGE.

ANNCR: THIS HAS BEEN DATELINE: WASHINGTON, D.C. -- PICTURES IN SOUND OF PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS IN THE CAPITAL OF THE UNITED STATES, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE VOICE OF AMERICA EACH WEEK AT THIS TIME. TODAY, YOU HEARD ABOUT THE STUDENTS' CORPORATION AT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY. NEXT ----- ANOTHER DATELINE.

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